expansion and upgradation of telecommuniation system in rural/urban areas of Maharashtra during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) whether the development of telecommunication in rural areas has been given the top priority and the implementation was tardy and sluggish due to non-availability of funds and equipments;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that projects in hand for rural areas are completed without further delay in Maharashtra in general and Sholapur district in particular; and

(d) the details of projects which are lagging behind the schedule in implementation in the State and particularly in Sholapur district?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Air Services

2514. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has demanded expansion of air services in the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A request has been received from Government of Maharashtra for increasing services to Aurangabad. Due to capacity and crew constraints, Indian Airlines is, at present, not in a position to increase the services to Aurangabad.

[English]

Norms/Guidelines

2515. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any norms, guidelines or regulation have been laid down by the Government in respect of on board entertainment in Public and private Airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). No guidelines have been laid down by the Government except that alcoholic drinks are not permitted to be served or consumed on board the aircraft on domestic sectors in India.

Child Labour

2516. SHRI PINAKI MISRA :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has recently castigated the developing countries including India for their sluggish enforcement of anti-child labour legislations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of children under 15 who are engaged in child labour in India;

(d) whether the implementation of anti-child labour measures has been unsatisfactory; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. In June, 1996, the International Labour Conference and the Informal Tripartite Meeting at the Ministerial level organised by the ILO discussed the subject of child labour. It was observed that developing countries are awakening to the serious social, economic and development implication of child labour. The Resolution adopted by the Conference, calls upon Governments, employers' and workers' organisations to, interalia, enact and give full effect to national legislation that prohibits the exploitation of children at work.

(c) to (e). According to the 1981 census, the total number of working children (in the age group 0-14 years) was 13.6 million. These were 4.26% of the total population of children (0-14 years) in the country.

A major programme to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations by 2002 A.D. has been launched. National Child Labour Projects are being implemented in Child labour endemic areas wherein non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, health care and stipend, etc. are provided. A massive awareness generation campaign has also been launched to sensitise people against the practice of child labour. The root cause of child labour being poverty and under-development, total elimination of child labour can be achieved with progressive improvement in poverty situation through development in economic and social sectors.

Aluminium Plant, Orissa

2517. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of families displaced due to the establishment of Alumina and Aluminium plant at Damanjodi and Angul by NALCO in Orissa;